



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/731,724	12/08/2000	Norio Michiie	200623US2	1537
22850	7590	02/08/2005	EXAMINER DESIRE, GREGORY M	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/731,724

Applicant(s)

MICHIE ET AL.

Examiner

Gregory M. Desire

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/10/05 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The examiner acknowledges the amendment of claims 1 and 13. The claim objection of the previous office action has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 6, 15-17, 20-21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayama (6,477,528) in view of Kawasaki et al (5,969,828).

Art Unit: 2625

Regarding apparatus and method claims 1 and 15 Takayama discloses,

First managing means (which reads on page management table, note fig. 5a, block 11) for generating first management information used to manage image data (note col. 6 lines 5-12, page management table generates management information used to manage information of each page (examiner interprets as image data); and

Second managing means (which reads on document management table managing means, note fig. 5b) for generating second management data used to manage the image data (note col. 6 lines 5-9 and 41-459, also manages the image data (documents)),

Takayama is silent disclosing means for separating image data into a plurality of single unit images. Kawasaki discloses separating image data into a plurality of single unit images (note col. 4 lines 33-36, line cite dividing manager dividing images).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to included dividing manager in the system of Takayama as evidenced by Kawasaki. Prevention of mistakenly compressed image data (note col. 3 lines 55-65) would have been a desirable feature in the system of Takayama. Kawasaki recognizes such features in management system would be beneficial reducing error.

Regarding apparatus and method claims 2 and 16 Takayama and Kawasaki discloses,

Wherein the image data are specified by said first management information (page data are specified by first hierarchical structure management information note col. 6 lines 11-40) out of an image file specified by said second management information

Art Unit: 2625

(document information from the document management table generates hierarchical information form documents, which is need to generate page information (note Takayama col. 6 lines 41-64).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 6,12 and 20 Takayama and Kawasaki discloses,

Wherein said first management information and second management information are stored in the image storing means in relation to the image data (note Takayama col. 6 lines 5-9, hierarchical management information are stored in database 111).

Regarding method claims 17, 21 and 26 Takayama and Kawasaki discloses,

Wherein said method is stored in a computer program to be executed by said computer (note Takayama col. 3 lines 43-51).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayama and Kawasaki in further view of Nakagawa (5,819,295).

Art Unit: 2625

Takayama and Kawasaki discloses, a third managing mean for generating third management information (note fig. 5C folder management table) stored in an image storing means (database 11). However, Takayama and Kawasaki is silent wherein management information represents a list of image files. Nakagawa teaches a third managing means, wherein data stored represent a list of image files (note fig. 1 block Library managing means in connection with col. col. 4 lines 13-16 and 55-65). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to teach a managing means wherein the data stored represents a list of image files in the system of Takayama and Kawasaki as evidenced by Nakagawa. Takayama teaches first second and third managing means which include image data and image filed data. Nakagawa in the same filed of hierarchical filing system generates a list of image files stored making it possible to manage folders in unit of folders collected in hierarchical structure and keeping adjustability with different versions (note col. 2 lines 40-48).

7. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayama, Kawasaki and Nakagawa in further view of Murata (6,06,161).

Regarding apparatus claim 4

Takayama, Kawasaki and Nakagawa are silent disclosing, wherein the image storing means comprises a storing medium removably mounted to said apparatus. However, Murata teaches image-storing means comprises a storing medium removably

Art Unit: 2625

mounted to said apparatus (note col. 8 lines 1-6). Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to teach an image storing means comprising a storing medium removable mounted to said apparatus in the system of Takayama, Kawasaki and Nakagawa as taught by Murata. Takayama, Kawasaki and Nakagawa system includes an external unit such as personal computer for printing or image processing (fig. 1 input device or scanner). Murata in the same field of endeavor teaches removably mounted medium a pc card installed in photocopying machine. This provides offline printing.

Regarding apparatus claims 5 and 29 Takayama, Kawasaki and Nakagawa discloses,

Internal storing means built in said apparatus for writhing at least one of said first management, second management and third management information stored in the storing medium and holding said information until said storing medium has been removed (note col. 4 lines 14-23, retrieval module writes the management information stored in the database).

8. Claims 7-8, 10-11, 13, 18-19 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takayama and Kawasaki in view of Murata (6,06,161).

Regarding apparatus and method claims 7, 10, 13, 18, 22 and 24

Art Unit: 2625

Takayama and Kawasaki are silent disclosing, wherein the image storing means comprises a storing medium removably mounted to said apparatus. However, Murata teaches image-storing means comprises a storing medium removably mounted to said apparatus (note col. 8 lines 1-6).. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art to teach an image storing means comprising a storing medium removable mounted to said apparatus in the system of Takayama and Kawasaki as taught by Murata. Takayama and Kawasaki's system includes an external unit such as personal computer for printing or image processing (fig. 1 input device or scanner). Murata in the same field of endeavor teaches removably mounted medium a pc card installed in photocopying machine. This provides offline printing.

Regarding apparatus claims 8 and 11 Takayama, Kawasaki and Murata discloses,

Internal storing means built in said apparatus for writhing at least one of said first management, second management and third management information stored in the storing medium and holding said information until said storing medium has been removed (note Takayama col. 4 lines 14-23, retrieval module writes the management information stored in the database).

Regarding apparatus claims 19, 23 and 25 Takayama, Kawasaki and Murata discloses,

Wherein said method is stored in a computer program to be executed by said computer (note Takayama col. 3 lines 43-51).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory M. Desire whose telephone number is (703) 308-9586. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30-6:00) Second Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gregory M. Desire
Examiner
Art Unit 2625

G.D.
June 13, 2004


BHAVESH M. MEHTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600